



Secretary of the State's Electronic Newsletter
Issue 25, August 21, 2008

100,000 NEW VOTERS!

The 2008 elections are generating unprecedented interest in the electoral process, especially among our young voters. This latest surge in voter registration keeps Connecticut on pace for a record 90% voter turnout in November.

Since January 1, 2008, more than 100,000 Connecticut residents have become newly registered voters. This total includes nearly 39,000 people who have registered since May 6, 2008, an even higher total than the 90-day period immediately following the February 5th Presidential Primary in Connecticut when 34,000 residents registered to vote. Young people (18-29 years old) continue to be the driving force behind the latest registration surge; nearly 18,000 18-29 year olds have registered since May 6th – the single largest group of new voters to register in this period.

**CONNECTICUT BUSINESSES NOT SPARED
FROM NATIONAL ECONOMIC DOWNTURN**

While more and more Americans are feeling the squeeze of a struggling economy and with unemployment on the rise, more Connecticut businesses shut their doors in the 2nd quarter of 2008 than any period since 2000. At the same time, the numbers also showed that the first half of 2008 witnessed the largest decline in new business starts in 8 years.

Businesses throughout the nation are struggling to cope with escalating energy prices, health care costs, and the national credit crisis and Connecticut's businesses are no exception.

According to information filed with the my office, the second quarter of 2008 recorded less overall starts than the first, with 7, 214 total (a decrease of 766). In June, Connecticut businesses witnessed the lowest number of new business starts—2,333—of any month thus far in 2008. The number of new starts for each month has also declined steadily since January, save for a slight jump of 116 new starts from February to March.

The new numbers also indicate economic trouble for Connecticut's existing businesses. Connecticut witnessed a record number of business stops –2,999 – for the second quarter of 2008. This figure represents the highest number of stops for any first or second quarter since at least 2000. Only the second quarter of 2003 comes close to matching it, with 2, 903 business stops on record.

While the new report seems to mirror the national recession of which economists warned, the numbers of business stops for the two most recent months, May and June, are significantly lower than the preceding two months on record. April 2008 had the highest stops so far – 1,294 – while May and June witnessed 861 and 844, respectively.

AUGUST 12TH PRIMARY WINNERS

On Tuesday, August 12th, from West Haven to Windham, Old Lyme to New Britain, more than 35,000 Democrats and Republicans across Connecticut went to the polls today to choose their party's candidate for the November 4th general election.

District	Party	Winning Candidate	Towns
Congressional District 4	D	Jim Himes,	Bridgeport, Darien, Easton, Fairfield, Greenwich, Monroe, New Canaan, Norwalk, Oxford, Redding, Ridgefield, Shelton, Stamford, Trumbull, Weston, Westport, Wilton

State Senate District 1	D	John W. Fonfara,	Hartford, Wethersfield
State Senate District 8	R	Kevin D. Witkos	Avon, Barkhamsted, Canton, Colebrook, Granby, Hartland, Harwinton, New Hartford, Norfolk, Simsbury, Torrington
State Senate District 22	D	Anthony J. Musto	Bridgeport, Monroe, Trumbull
State Senate District 24	D	Duane E. Perkins,	Bethel, Danbury, New Fairfield, Sherman
State Rep. District 5	D	Marie Lopez Kirkley-Bey	Hartford
State Rep. District 6	D	Hector Luis Robles	Hartford
State Rep. District 9	D	Jason Rojas	East Hartford, Glastonbury, Manchester
State Rep. District 9	R	Clifton E . Thompson	East Hartford, Glastonbury, Manchester
State Rep. District 17	R	Timothy LeGeyt,	Avon, Canton
State Rep. District 49	D	<div style="MAR	